

2395, Fayette County School Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Fayette County School Corporation students and their families are feeling the impact of the lack of employment opportunities in Fayette County. The percent of our students participating in the free and reduced lunch program continues to grow and the county unemployment rate continues to rank in the top five in the state. Children from economically disadvantaged areas and those living in rural communities have less access to computers, the Internet and educational software than their middle class peers. As a result, the integration of technology into instruction can positively impact the academic success of our disadvantaged students. Integration of technology with small groups of students through podcast and web-based or software programs will enable struggling students to learn critical math skills and concepts through real-life task and hands-on activities, improving student achievement. (Educational Research Service, Handbook of Research on Improving Student Achievement, 2004 and ISTE Policy Brief, 2008)

Fayette County School Corporation elementary students having difficulty passing the math portion of the ISTEP+ in grades 4-6 will be able to utilize classroom computers to access a video podcast focusing on math activities developed by our students attending Connersville High School. The elementary students will benefit by focusing on specific skills and concepts embedded in the computation and measurement state standards, which tend to be the most challenging for our students, and high school students will benefit through teaching critical skills and concepts to the younger students. The computers will also be utilized to practice basic math skills and to develop math media fair projects showcasing application of math skills and concepts learned via this grant project. Improvement in student achievement will be measured using NWEA and ISTEP results.